

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is also a broader example of corporate interests in profit undermining the principles of self-governance and representative democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of manufactured news produced by corporate interests, the public is entitled to locally produced news that is not primarily concerned with ratings and profits, but with substantive issues that matter to respective communities.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why corporate monopolies must be checked and not encouraged. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.